

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD

during the war, is now back there as BBC Correspondent. Thomas Cadett, whose voice will be familiar to listeners to BBC *Radio Newsweek*, was born in 1898 and educated at Craleigh School and Sandhurst. At 17 he won his commission in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and saw service in the

First World War.

PARIS In 1918 he went to
CORRESPONDENT India with his regiment for four years.

and in 1922 he left the army and joined the staff of *The Times*. Later he spent a considerable time in the United States as a journalist, labourer, policeman in Chicago, and so on. He became the first holder of the Walter Hines Page Travelling News Fellowship, and in America he contributed to the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Daily News*, the *Wichita Beacon*, the *Atlantic Constitution*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. Among his other achievements Cadett mentions that he was once a member of a Fraternity House in the University of California, and that he learned to fly when in his thirties. This feat, he says, caused the late Lloyd George to follow suit. In 1929 Cadett was appointed Chief Paris Correspondent of *The Times*, a post which he held for 12 years. He joined the staff of the BBC in 1942, and three years later was appointed BBC Paris correspondent. In addition to his interest in Chinese art, Thomas Cadett likes to keep dogs. At present he has two dachshunds, one of which is called Anna von Schutzenheim.

"GOOD evening, boys and girls, I've had the most exciting day. . . . That's how Airini Grennell, Children's Programme Organiser at 3YA, started her daily session one night a few months ago, and as she told the story to us "exciting" seemed just the word for it. Out at a private aquarium with a group of children, recording a programme about crocodiles, she'd suddenly been pounced on, not by the crocs, but by a couple of fearsome wetas intended for



AIRINI GRENNELL and children during a session at 3YA

their dinner. "I screamed my head off," Airini said, "and as you can guess I'd had enough of that aquarium, so I

IN SPITE OF WETAS

packed up and returned to the studio." But that wasn't quite the end of the story. When the time came to edit the programme the technician started the tape, turned up the speaker and went off for his tea, leaving Airini to listen. "Suddenly dreadful screams rent the air, there was a clatter of breaking china, and a very worried technician rushed into see what had happened to me." In her rush Airini had quite forgotten she had recorded the weta incident along with everything else.

In spite of wetas, Airini is still as keen as ever about her work for the *Children's Session*, and only sorry she can't give it the full time she feels it deserves. After 16 years in broadcasting she must be one of the busiest people in the Service, for on top of the *Children's Session* she shares talks programmes with Arnold Wall, taking care of everything outside country sessions and *Book Shop*, which are his special concern. "We share the same office," she said, "and there are no secrets." To add still more variety she takes over the *Women's Session* when Jocelyn Holliss is away—a job she's well qualified to do, since she has been *Women's Programme* organiser at both 3YA and 4YA.

When Airini told us the weta story we asked if she usually took children along when she recorded outside broadcasts. Without hesitation she said that whenever possible she liked to take one or two, unless the job was at a school or a children's show. "Interviews with children are most exhilarating," she said. "We've had them on a variety of subjects—books, hobbies, sports. I even used

a bright girl of ten to give a running commentary on a couple of stands at a doll show. Our people considered her a natural."

Airini is much encouraged by reactions to children's programmes. Some time ago she asked younger children to draw their impressions of an Enid Blyton record and older ones to write an animal story. In less than three weeks nearly 300 letters came in. "We've had good reactions to our Junior Panel of 16-year-olds also," she said. "It's a programme primarily for teenagers, and the members are all lively speakers."

Airini Grennell was born in the Chatham Islands and went to school at Sacred Heart College, Christchurch, later going on to Canterbury University College. By the time she was 18 she had four diplomas for pianoforte and singing—L.T.C.L. and L.R.S.M. for both—as well as a couple of provincial medals and scholarships at the Christchurch Competitions. "I intended doing a Mus. Bach. course at University," she said, "but instead I joined the Waiata Maori Choir to tour Australia a couple of times. We ended with a tour of the British Isles in 1937-38. The highlight of that tour came when we were commanded to appear at Buckingham Palace shortly before the Coronation of King George VI." Music has remained one of Airini's spare-time interests, and she admits that she has also been an avid reader "since boarding school days, when I read under the blankets by torchlight." And there has always been an interest in some form of sport. "A few years ago tennis and basketball were discarded for lack of wind. Swimming is still a summer pleasure, but golf is my game these days. My handicap of six takes much keeping up, as I found when playing in the Wellington gales during the New Zealand Ladies' Championships." Another of Airini's interests is the theatre.

The picture on this page shows Airini with a group of children who were heard last month discussing holiday reading. She says: "They were all finalists in the Children's Book Week essay competition and are representative of the bright young reviewers we've used from time to time in the *Children's Session*."



BBC photograph

THOMAS CADETT, the BBC's Paris Correspondent

N.Z. LISTENER, JANUARY 21, 1955.

The WORLD'S BIGGEST SONG HITS

OPEN YOUR PIANO and
PLAY THESE SONGS

PRICE 2/6 per copy

"SH-BOOM" "SH-BOOM"
(LIFE COULD BE A DREAM)

"GOD'S LITTLE CANDLES"

"IF I GIVE MY HEART
TO YOU"

"CARA MIA" "CARA MIA"

"IDLE GOSSIP"

"GOODNIGHT, SWEET-
HEART, GOODNIGHT"

"KITTY IN THE BASKET"

"JOEY" "JOEY"

"LITTLE THINGS
MEAN A LOT"

"OH MY PAPA" "SWEDISH RHAPSODY"
"HEART OF MY HEART"

"THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN"

JUST ARRIVED—

F & D's ALBUM OF RAGS

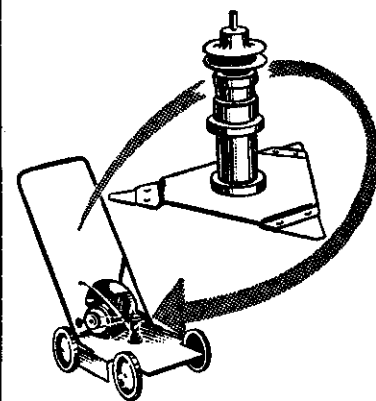
Containing 6 Rags selected by
WINIFRED ATWELL

Price 3/6

ALL MUSIC SELLERS

Or direct from the publishers,
J. ALBERT AND SON, PTY., LTD.,
2-4 Willis Street, Wellington.

BUILD YOUR OWN POWER MOWER!



With a Monro 18" Cutting Head (the heart of the mower) you can build your own rotary mower at a big saving! The cutting head is the mower's most important part—and a Monro is the best you can buy.

* Double ball-bearing * Adjustable cutting height * High-grade steel knives, easily changeable * 18" cut.

COMPLETE HEAD, £6/- POST FREE.

Plans and Specifications for Build-your-own-Mower supplied with every Monro Head, or sent on request.

Trade enquiries welcomed.
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

MONRO FOUNDRIES LTD.

PORTAGE ROAD, NEW LYNN
AUCKLAND, S.W.4